

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TAIPEI 06509 241022Z

16

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10

OMB-01 /062 W

----- 104390

R 240905Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3293

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

UNCLAS TAIPEI 6509

USIAC

FOR: IOP/MEDIA REACTION; IEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TW

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION REPORT

1. FOLLOWING IS COMPLETE TEXT OF A OCTOBER 24 EDITORIAL
IN THE CHINA NEWS ENTITLED "FORMOSA RESOLUTION REPEAL."
2. REPEAL OF THE SO-CALLED "FORMOSA RESOLUTION" OF THE
U.S. CONGRESS IS ILL TIMED BUT NOT SERIOUS.
3. THE BASIC, ALL-IMPORTANT MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY BETWEEN
THE UNITED STATES AND THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA IS NOT WEAKENED
OR AFFECTED IN ANY WAY.
4. THE FORMOSA RESOLUTION AUTHORIZED THE PRESIDENT OF
THE UNITED STATES TO EMPLOY AMERICAN ARMED FORCES TO
DEFEND TAIWAN, THE PESCADORES AND "RELATED POSITIONS AND
TERRITORIES" (THE OFFSHORE ISLANDS) WITHOUT SEEKING
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 TAIPEI 06509 241022Z

AUTHORIZATION FROM CONGRESS.

5. REPEALED EARLIER WAS A RESOLUTION SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZING DEFENSE OF THE OFFSHORE ISLANDS OF KINMEN AND MATSU IF THE PRESIDENT CONSIDERED THE ATTACK TO BE A THREAT AGAINST TAIWAN.

6. BOTH OF THESE RESOLUTIONS ARE AKIN TO THE TONKIN GULF STATEMENT OF CONGRESS WHICH LYNDON JOHNSON UTILIZED AS AUTHORIZATION FOR THE MASSIVE U.S. DEFENSE OF SOUTH VIETNAM.

7. THE EFFECT OF THE REPEALS IS TO RETURN THE UNITED STATES TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESSES STIPULATED IN THE MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY WITH THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND SIMILAR AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES.

8. CONGRESS FEELS IT WAS BY PASSED BY PRESIDENT JOHNSON AND THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS OVERINVOLVED IN VIETNAM. IT THEREFORE TAKES A DIM VIEW OF BLANK CHECKS AUTHORIZING THE AMERICAN CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO COMMIT FORCES TO WAR.

9. THIS DIRECTION OF CONGRESSIONAL THINKING HAS BEEN REINFORCED BY THE EXPERIENCE OF WATERGATE AND THE NIXON RESIGNATION. THE PENDULUM OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENTAL POWER, WHICH SWUNG FAR OVER TOWARD THE PRESIDENT'S SIDE, IS MOVING BACK TOWARD THE LEGISLATURE.

10. THE MUTUAL SECURITY TREATY PROVIDES THAT THE UNITED STATES SHALL HELP DEFEND THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA AGAINST AGGRESSION BUT UNDER THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESSES OF THE TWO COUNTRIES.

11. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT PRESIDENT FORD WOULD HAVE TO SEEK A DECLARATION OF WAR FROM CONGRESS IN THE EVENT OF A CHINESE COMMUNIST ATTACK ON TAIWAN. IT DOES IMPLY THAT HE WOULD CONSULT WITH THE CONGRESS ABOUT MILITARY ACTION. IF THE FIGHTING CONTINUED FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME, HE WOULD PROBABLY ASK A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT.

12. THERE IS NO QUESTION OF THE UNITED STATES HOLDING ITS FIRE WHILE THE CONGRESS ENGAGED IN LENGTHY DEBATE.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 TAIPEI 06509 241022Z

13. AMERICAN FORCES WHO ARE ATTACKED DEFEND THEMSELVES AND LEAVE THE AUTHORIZATION UNTIL LATER. THAT WAS TRUE AT PEARL HARBOR ON DECEMBER 7, 1941, AND IN KOREA ON JUNE 25 OF 1950.

14. AN AMERICAN MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PRESENCE IN TAIWAN IS MUCH MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE FORMOSA RESOLUTION. THE MILITARY PRESENCE IS NOT REQUIRED UNDER THE MUTUAL SECURITY

TREATY. THE FACT OF ITS EXISTENCE BY AGREEMENT OF THE TWO COUNTRIES GIVES INDICATION OF THE SINCERITY AND GOOD INTENTIONS OF EACH.

15. THE REPEAL IS ILL TIMED IN THE SENSE THAT THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA HAS RECEIVED MANY BUFFETINGS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS. MORE ARE IN THE OFFING.

16. EVEN THE UNITED STATES IS ENGAGED IN AN ATTEMPT TO RELAX TENSIONS WITH THOSE WHO WOULD DESTROY US. PRESIDENT NIXON WENT TO RED CHINA. HENRY KISSINGER, THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE, IS EXPECTED TO MAKE ANOTHER VISIT TO THE MAINLAND SOON, ALTHOUGH HE HAS YET TO COME TO TAIWAN.

17. THE UNITED STATES IS OUR ROD AND OUR STAFF IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST AN ENEMY WITH IMMENSE RESOURCES AND NO COMPUNCTIONS. NATURALLY, ANY SLIGHTEST INDICATION OF SOFT SPOTS IN THE AMERICAN ALLIANCE IS REGARDED WITH UNEASINESS, IF NOT ALARM.

18. REPEAL OF THE FORMOSA RESOLUTION WAS ACCOMPLISHED BY ATTACHING THE MEASURE TO A BILL APPROPRIATING US\$981 MILLION FOR THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND U.S. INFORMATION AGENCY. IF PRESIDENT FORD WERE TO VETO THE BILL BECAUSE OF THE REPEAL RIDER, THE APPROPRIATION MEASURE WOULD HAVE TO BE SENT BACK TO THE CONGRESS. MANY MEMBERS OF HOUSE AND SENATE WOULD BE OFFENDED.

19. THIS METHOD OF GETTING AN UNPALATABLE PIECE OF LEGISLATION THROUGH THE WHITE HOUSE IS PART OF THE AMERICAN SYSTEM AND FAR FROM UNUSUAL, ALTHOUGH MOST POLITICAL SCIENTISTS OBJECT - NOT TO MENTION ALL PRESIDENTS.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 TAIPEI 06509 241022Z

20. IF THE FORMOSA RESOLUTION REPEAL PROVISION HAD BEEN PRESENTED AS A SEPARATE BILL, SUBJECT TO FULL DEBATE AND UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT OF PUBLICITY, IT MIGHT WELL HAVE FAILED TO PASS THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. AS THINGS STOOD, SCARCELY ANYONE WAS AWARE OF WHAT WAS GOING ON.

21. REPEAL DOES SUGGEST THAT THIS COUNTRY SHOULD INTENSITY ITS REQUESTS THAT THE UNITED STATES SELL US WEAPONS TO MODERNIZE OUR ARMED FORCES WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY.

22. THE IMPLICATION NOW IS THAT WE SHOULD HAVE TO BEAR THE BRUNT OF THE FIRST ATTACK WHILE THE UNITED STATES RESORTED TO THE FORMALITY OF "CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESSES." THE AMERICAN FORCES WHO STAND WITH US ARE SMALL AND OF A

TOKEN NATURE.

23. FOR OUR OWN PROTECTION AND THAT OF OUR AMERICAN FRIENDS,
WE OUGHT TO HAVE THE PHANTOM JETS, UP-TO-DATE MISSILES AND
INCREASED FIREPOWER WHICH - IN THE POSSIBLE ABSENCE OF AN
IMMEDIATE U.S. 7TH FLEET RESPONSE - SHOULD BE OUR FIRST
LINE OF DEFENSE.
CLARKE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, COLLECTIVE SECURITY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TAIPEI06509
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740303-1078
From: TAIPEI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741018/aaaaapcp.tel
Line Count: 177
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 MAR 2002 by chappeld>; APPROVED <11 FEB 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA REACTION REPORT
TAGS: PFOR, TW, US
To: USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005